

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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> Board of Supervisors GLORIA MOLINA First District

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January 29, 2009

To:

Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman

Supervisor Gloria Molina

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From:

William T Fujioka

Chief Executive Officer

## CONTINUITY OF CARE AND INCREASED VISIBILITY OF PUBLIC HEALTH CAMPAIGNS

On November 18, 2008, your Board instructed this Office to work in concert with the Director of the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Interim Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS) to identify opportunities to improve the County's systems of care so that women seeking services through a sexually transmitted disease (STD) clinic receive basic reproductive services such as pap tests, without having to schedule an appointment and go to a separate clinic in another facility.

In addition, your Board instructed the Director of DPH, the Interim Director of DHS, and the Director of the Internal Services Department (ISD) to work together to increase the visibility of public health campaigns by utilizing space in County buildings to publicize them, which would assist the County in getting key messages and education on screening for cancer, STDs and other public health issues to clients, health professionals and others visiting County facilities. Further, we were instructed to report back to your Board within 60 days.

This is to provide your Board a status report on the current efforts undertaken by noted County departments.

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## **CURRENT STATUS**

DPH has established and chairs a Reproductive Health Work Group (RHWG) to develop a strategy that ensures the availability of pap screenings in all DPH STD clinics. The RHWG consists of members from DHS' Operations; DPH's Office of Women's Health, STD Program, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Program, and Community Health Services. The RHWG also includes representatives from Black Women for Wellness (BWW), California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ), and the California Black Women's Health Project (CBWHP). BWW, CLRJ, and CBWHP are community agencies that were selected by DPH to participate in the RHWG as a result of their involvement in the field of reproductive health.

In addition to the RHWG, the Campaign Workgroup, also chaired by DPH, has been established to focus on publicizing and increasing the visibility of public health campaigns in County buildings. This workgroup consists of representatives from ISD operations as well as DPH and DHS. On December 8, 2008, the Campaign Workgroup was convened and they began to assess current space in County buildings and explore different options for publicizing health campaigns at these sites.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The RHWG will convene, as a group, on February 3, 2009. At this meeting the RHWG will discuss integrating pap screenings in all DPH STD clinics, as well as assess and prioritize additional needs for streamlining services for women seeking reproductive health services within DHS and DPH facilities.

On January 8, 2009, the Campaign Workgroup convened at ISD headquarters. At this meeting, facility managers from different DPH programs discussed existing space availability in County buildings and explored different options for publicizing health campaigns in their facilities. Possible locations, advertisement placement options, and cost information was also discussed at this meeting.

It is anticipated that a County plan will be developed by the noted workgroups and provided to your Board by March 2009. DPH will ensure that your Board is adequately apprised of the progress made by the workgroups and in support of this effort, DPH will provide all future progress reports.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Richard F. Martinez at (213) 974-1758 or <a href="martinez@ceo.lacounty.gov">martinez@ceo.lacounty.gov</a> or Dr. Peter Kerndt, DPH Sexually Transmitted Disease Program, at (213) 744-3093 or <a href="martinez@ceo.lacouty.gov">pkerndt@ph.lacouty.gov</a>.

WTF:SRH:SAS MLM:RM:yb

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Director, Internal Services Department
Director, Department of Public Health
Interim Director, Department of Health Services

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